

Amendments to the Specification:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b) kindly amend the specification as follows. Amendments to the specification are made by presenting replacement paragraphs or sections marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version. The changes in any amended paragraph or section are being shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlined (for added matter).

Page 4, lines 1-8

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, a preferred embodiment of the present invention is shown. An engine front cover 12 is provided and an inside view is shown. Front cover 12 has a pair of locations 14 for accommodating both a driving gear and a driven gear (both not shown). An endless chain (also not shown) is disposed to connect and engage both the driving gear and the driven gear. Bracket 16 is suitably affixed upon front cover 12. Bracket 16 has a first flange 18 and a second flange 19. First flange 18 is disposed to have a chain guide device 20 mounted thereon; and second flange 19 is disposed to have a tensioner system 21 mounted thereon.

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Referring specifically to Fig. 2, a detailed depiction of the chain guide device 20 is shown. Wear face 22 is clipped to bracket 16 which may be part of a supporting metal bracket. First flange 18 may be a material extension of bracket 16 of Fig. 1. Wear face 22 can be any suitable low-friction material such as nylon, ZYTEL (which is currently a trademark of DuPont company), etc. The device such as 20 has a blade spring 24 either inserted in the guide 20, or in contact with a surface 22a opposite of one that is in contact with the chain such as wear face 22. Wear face 22 (that may be a plastic guide surface) may be molded with a slight amount of curvature so that it can possess a small amount of travel, which can cause wear face 22 to slide however slightly along first flange 18 of bracket 16. The slight amount of travel may be along a direction of chain movement 26. A gap 28 is provided between a first end 30 of wear face 22 and a first end portion 32 of first flange 18. The first end portion 32 may comprise a lip 44 for stopping any further sliding movement of the retaining clip ~~30~~ 42 of the wear face 22 along a direction on the first flange 18.

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First flange 18 may have a second end portion 38 having similar structure as that of the first end portion 32 in that the second end portion 38 is disposed to receive a second end 40 of the wear face and render the same to slide, however slightly, along a direction on first flange 18. Second end 40 may include a clip 42 for clipping onto flange 18. Similarly, second end portion 38 may comprise a lip 44 for stopping any further sliding movement of the retaining clip 42 of the wear face 22 along a direction on the first flange 18. In the neighborhood of the second end portion 38, a similar structure may exist as that of the first end portion 30 in that second end portion ~~28~~ 30 may comprise a lip for stopping any further sliding movement of the retaining clip of the second end 40 of the wear face 22 along a direction on the first flange 18. A gap between the lip 44 on the first flange 18 and the second end portion ~~28~~ 30 may exist.

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As can be appreciated, the chain in addition to moving along its direction of travel, may oscillate however slightly perpendicular to its direction of travel. The present invention's compliant chain guide 20, having an elastic member such as blade spring 24, provides an allowance or compliance for the chain's slight oscillation. The blade spring 24 is disposed to support the plastic face 22. The plastic face 22 is captured by the flange 18 but allowed to slide. One means to achieve this is to have the face 22 held onto the ~~bracket~~ flange 18 by clips 42 which extend off the side. If necessary, the bracket might have lips 44 to take up any side-loading caused by friction from the chain and/or stops to prevent the guide from over-compressing.